



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS SWORDFISH (SSN 579)
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

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From: Commanding Officer, USS SWORDFISH (SSN 579)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09B9)

Subj: OPNAV Report 5750-1 - Ship's History for 1968

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12A

Encl: (1) Ship's History - 1968

1. OPNAV Report 5750-1 for 1968 is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).


R. C. BILYEU

Copy to:
CINCPACFLT
COMSUBPAC

U.S.S. SWORDFISH (SSN 579)

SHIP'S HISTORY - 1968

1. Chronology of Highlights.

1 JAN 68 - 3 FEB 68 - This period was spent in preparation for overseas movement. Type training, upkeep, performance of critical PMS, and load out for 120 days occupied the majority of this time

3 FEB 68 - 5 SEP 68 - Deployment to the Western Pacific

5 SEP 68 - 31 DEC 68 - The ship was in homeport (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii) for upkeep, type training, leave and holiday routine.

2. Basic Narrative.

(1) Command Organization and Relations.

(a) Commanding Officers.

17 DEC 65 - 16 NOV 68 - CDR John T. RIGSBEE, USN

16 NOV 68 - Present - CDR Roland C. BILYEU, USN

(b) The ship was homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii throughout the entire year.

(c) From 9 February 1968 to 1 September 1968 the ship was under the operational authority of COMSUBFLOT SEVEN, the remainder of the year was spent in MIDPAC under COMSUBFLOT FIVE.

(d) The end of the year personnel compliment was as follows:

	Qualified (SS)	Unqualified (SS)
Officers	09	02
Enlisted	56	30

(2) Operations and Activities.

1 JAN 68 - 3 FEB 68. The ship was engaged in preparation for deployment to the Western Pacific. The period also included type training and a SECNAV Guest Cruise for Journalists.

15 FEB 68 - 17 MAR 68. Special Operations.

17 MAR 68 - 25 MAR 68. This period was spent in Yokosuka.

This marked the first visit of SWORDFISH to Japan.

25 MAR 68 - 10 APR 68. Special Operations.

18 APR 68 - 24 APR 68. The ship made a visit to B.C.C. HONG KONG.

2 MAY 68 - 11 MAY 68. The ship made a visit to SASEBO, Japan.

During this visit it was alleged by the Local Branch of the Maritime Safety Office that SWORDFISH discharged an unknown amount of radioactive material to the harbor. It was later proven to the satisfaction of CINCPACFLT and Naval Reactors Inspectors that no such discharge occurred.

11 MAY 68 - 20 MAY 68. Special Operations.

25 MAY 68 - 11 JUN 68. The ship conducted an upkeep period in Guam.

11 JUN 68 - 7 AUG 68. Special Operations.

15 AUG 68 - 20 AUG 68. The ship made a visit to SINGAPORE.

20 AUG 68. The ship made its first crossing of the equator at 106-14E, all polywogs were initiated into the solemn mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep.

5 SEP 68. The ship returned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

5 SEP 68 - 5 OCT 68. The ship spent the majority of this time in upkeep with one week of type training.

5 OCT 68 - 18 OCT 68. The ship conducted Prospective Commanding Officer Operations.

18 OCT 68 - 30 NOV 68. The ship conducted type training and local operations.

16 NOV 68. CDR J. T. RIGSBEE was relieved as Commanding Officer by CDR R. C. BILYEU.

30 NOV 68 - 31 DEC 68. The ship was inport at U.S. Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for upkeep, leave, and holiday routine.

(3) Special Topics.

(a) Weapons.

The ship fired a total of 49 exercise weapons during 1968.

(b) Material.

The ship steamed 41,619 miles last year.

A total of 31 CASREPTS were submitted during 1968 with 4 outstanding at the end of the fiscal year. No operational delays were experienced and no time was lost due to the equipment casualties.

No new equipments were installed during the year which changed the ships operational or combat characteristics.

(c) Personnel.

The manning level remained essentially constant during 1968; but an enlisted turnover rate of 55% placed an emphasis on the training and qualification programs. The reenlistment rate was:

First Term:	50%
Career:	86%
Overall:	65%

The ship experienced no serious personnel casualties onboard, and no personnel were lost as a result of accidents, which occurred off the ship.

(d) Awards and Commendations.

During 1968 the following numbers of men qualified for:

The Viet Nam Service Medal:

76 - Tet Counteroffensive

92 - Phase IV

The Good Conduct Medal. - 13

The following man received a COMSUBPAC commendation for

"Meritorious Service" - SK1(SS) Lowell R. ADDISS, USN, (b) (6)

The following men received COMSUBFLOT FIVE commendations for

"Meritorious Service" - LTJG Elvin B. STANDRICH, USN, (b) (6) 1100

EMCS(SS) Charles L. WILLIS, USN, (b) (6)

The following men received letters of commendation from

Commanding Officer, USS SWORDFISH for "Meritorious Service"

EM1(SS) Dennis L. JONES, USN, (b) (6)

IC1(SS) Truman E. JARVA, USN, (b) (6)

OFFICER BIOGRAPHY

CDR Roland C. BILYEU, USN, was born in (b) (6) Wyoming, attended Sheridan public schools and was graduated from Sheridan High School. He attended Sheridan Community College and in 1959 entered the U.S. Naval Academy. He was graduated and commissioned Ensign on 4 June 1954.

Prior to his entry into the Nuclear Power Program, CDR BILYEU had the following assignments:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Stations</u>	<u>Billets</u>
JUL 54 - JUN 56	USS GURKE (DD 783)	Communicator, CIC Officer
JUL 56 - DEC 56	U.S.N. Submarine School	Under Instruction
JAN 57 - DEC 58	USS RATON (SSR 270)	Communicator, Weapons Officer

In January 1959, CDR BILYEU was ordered to the U.S. Naval Submarine School, New London for duty under instruction at Nuclear Power School. Upon completion of this instruction, he was ordered to the Nuclear Power Training Unit, Idaho Falls for training on the land based S-1-W prototype. He reported to USS SWORDFISH (SSN 579) in February 1960. In SWORDFISH he served as Electrical Officer, Main Propulsion Assistant, Damage Control Assistant, Supply Officer, Operations Officer and Navigator.

In July 1963, he was ordered to Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. as part of the Precommissioning Unit of USS VON STEUBEN (SSBN 632) (Blue) and for duty on board as Engineer Officer upon commissioning. CDR BILYEU served in VON STEUBEN until December 1965 and participated in two Polaris deterrent patrols. In January 1966, he reported to USS SNOOK (SSN 592) for duty as Executive Officer.

In May 1968 he was detached from SNOOK and after periods of command

instruction in Washington, D.C. and Pearl Harbor, he relieved as Commanding Officer, USS SWORDFISH (SSN 579) in November. SWORDFISH had just returned from a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

His service awards include the China Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Viet Nam Service Medal. In May 1958 he was designated "Qualified in Submarines" and in January 1962 "Qualified for Command of Submarines". He was promoted to Commander on 1 July 1968.

CDR BILYEU is married to the former Miss (b) (6) of

(b) (6) Conn. and has three children.